

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** March 16, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on March 9, 2001

**FROM:** William E. Munro, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** David A. Ullrich  
Acting Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Removal Completed, Greenberg Salvage Yard Site, Murphysboro, Illinois**

On February 13, 2001, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Kevin Turner completed a fund financed removal action at the Greenberg Salvage Yard site in Murphysboro, Illinois. This removal took 17 weeks to complete and resulted in the excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 12,000 tons of lead contaminated soil. The former salvage yard is located in a residential and light industrial area of Murphysboro. Through out the operation, the salvage yard accepted lead acid batteries for recycling and disposal. The high levels of lead were treated down below Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) 5.0 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) using a chemical called "Enviroblend." The treated soils were then shipped off-site as a nonhazardous waste to a local landfill. The area was then back filled with clean material. The completion of the cleanup at the former Greenberg Salvage Yard is the first of two sites adjacent to each other within the City of Murphysboro. The other site (the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Rail Yard site) is potentially responsible party (PRP) lead and is scheduled to begin this Spring.

Contact: Kevin Turner (618-997-0115)

**Settlement, J.H. Routh Packing Company, Sandusky, Ohio**

On March 7, 2001, U.S. EPA filed a Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) to resolve the Administrative Complaint against J.H. Routh Packing Company, Sandusky, Ohio. The Complaint alleged that the Respondent failed to immediately notify the National Response Center, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) of a 1,600 pound release of anhydrous ammonia that occurred on October 12, 1999. Additionally, the Respondent failed to submit their annual inventory forms to the State Emergency Response Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the local fire department for calendar years 1996-1998 by the March 1, deadline. The proposed penalty in the Complaint was \$136,503.13.

The settlement includes a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The project will be to provide the Margarette Township Fire Department with upgraded self-contained breathing apparatus. This company is a small business.

The Respondent will pay a cash penalty of \$21,369 (\$2,738.69 to Superfund and \$18,630.31 to the General Treasury). The total cash outlay equals \$55,579. The Enforcement Response Policy allows the Agency to mitigate the penalty for cooperation, return to compliance, and for quick settlement. The Respondent will have 30 days to pay the cash penalty and 60 days to complete the SEP.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

**Sheboygan Audubon Society Meeting, Sheboygan River and Harbor Superfund Site, Sheboygan, Wisconsin**

On March 8, 2001, Tom Short was invited to and attended a Sheboygan Audubon Society Meeting in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. At the meeting, Tom discussed the Record of Decision (ROD) signed last May for the Sheboygan River and Harbor Superfund site, gave a short presentation on the remedy and answered questions from the audience. Some local business owners expressed concern over disruption of their operations during implementation of the remedy but were still hopeful that the cleanup happened as quickly as possible. The presentation and Question & Answer session were well received by the audience and Tom was invited back again for a site update later this year.

Contact: Tom Short (312-353-8826)

## **OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Region 5 Staff Paper, International Atomic Energy Agency Proceedings, Vienna**

The International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, recently published proceedings of their December 1999 conference "Restoration of Environments with Radioactive Residues." The proceedings contain the paper "Chemical and Radionuclide Issues at the Fields Brook Superfund site-Ashtabula, Ohio" by Region 5 staff Terese Van Donsel and Larry Jensen.

Contact: Larry Jensen (312-886-5026)

## **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

### **Facility Response Plan Seminar, Ann Arbor, Michigan**

On March 6, 2001, the fourth Facility Response Plan (FRP) Seminar was held in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The following topics were discussed: Alex Tzallas discussed FRP Preparation, FRP Review Process, FRP 5 Year Review Process, Integrated Contingency Plans vs Facility Response Plans, Plan Deficiencies, Inspections and Agency Expectations. Ann Whelan discussed the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. EPA and Department of Transportation (DOT) and the new Vegetable Oil and Animal Fat regulations. Sheila Calovich discussed Unannounced Drills. Betty Lavis discussed Response Strategies and Beth Henning discussed Legal and Enforcement Issues. On-Scene Coordinator, Mark Durno, was also given an opportunity to address the attendees regarding the Detroit sub-area plan.

The seminar was mostly attended by industry individuals (including terminal owners/operators), consultants, and agency personnel. Attendees' response was extremely positive, they found the seminar and informational packets informative and helpful for improving their oil programs. In addition, numerous attendees stated that they had traveled from other regional jurisdictions because no such outreach existed in their region. The next seminar will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on March 21, 2001, at the Minneapolis Marriott City Center.

Contact: Alexander Tzallas (312-886-0622)

**Meeting, Committee on Terrorism, Hobart, Indiana**

On March 8, 2001, Region 5 Civil Investigator (CI) Joe Kawecki chaired a meeting on bioterrorism at St. Mary's Hospital, Hobart, Indiana. CI Joe Kawecki is the Chairman of the committee on terrorism for the Lake County, Indiana, Local Emergency Planning Committee. Attending the meeting were representatives of several local hospitals, County emergency management, and various first responder units. The meeting addressed the specter of a bioterrorist incident and the need for coordinated planning, increased communication between agencies and awareness training. The meeting ended with participants agreeing to serve as an ad hoc committee to draft an annex to the County emergency plan for response to terrorist incidents involving biological, chemical, or radioactive agents. The committee will be chaired by CI Joe Kawecki.

Contact: Joe Kawecki (312-886-7236)

**Staff Visit, Marine Safety Office-Milwaukee, Chicago, Illinois**

On March 5, 2001, the Commanding Officer and the Chief of Port Operations from the Marine Safety Office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, visited Region 5's offices. The purpose of the visit was to explain the operations of U.S. EPA, and specifically the Emergency Response Branch (ERB) within the Superfund Division. The presentations, which were done by staff from each respective program, included functions under the Oil Pollution Act, including Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plans, Facility Response Plans, Unannounced Exercises, and Enforcement; the Emergency Response System within the Emergency Response Branch; Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know activities; Criminal Investigations Division activities; and, activities of the Great Lakes National Program Office, including the Lake Guardian. The U.S. Coast Guard staff who participated were very appreciative of the opportunity to hear from these various U.S. EPA programs.

Contact: Karen Vendl (312-886-7194)

**Oil On-Scene Coordinators Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia**

On March 6-8, 2001, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) from 8 of the 10 U.S. EPA Regions met in Atlanta, Georgia, to discuss oil removal/response activities, particularly those occurring at oil production facilities. This was the first time OSCs had gotten together to discuss common problems and share information about these issues. The meeting was a tremendous success because it

provided the opportunity to exchange information about use of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, interactions with the National Pollution Fund Center, and other topics of great concern to OSCs. The OSC meeting was held in conjunction with the Oil Program Managers meeting.

Contact: Karen Vendl (312-886-7194)

**Meeting, Greater St. Louis Sub-area Committee, St. Louis, Missouri**

On March 6, 2001, Chris Christenson attended the Greater St. Louis Sub-Area Planning Committee meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Other attendees included representatives from U.S. EPA Region 7 Office, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) from Madison County in Illinois and St. Charles County in Missouri, the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, and the Koch Pipeline Corporation. The Greater St. Louis Sub-area Contingency Plan is now in final form and a major portion of the meeting concerned the discussion and setting up of an outreach effort to publicize the Plan. Presentations will be made at upcoming meetings of the LEPCs in the six Counties which are parties to the Plan. The team for the Counties on the Illinois side of the river will be an U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) from Region 5, a representative from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and a representative from the local LEPC. On the Missouri side, the team will include an U.S. EPA OSC from Region 7, a representative from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and a representative from each local LEPC. The three representatives from Koch Industries who were in attendance also discussed their plans for a tabletop exercise in the St. Louis area tentatively scheduled for October 9, 2001.

Contacts: Chris Christenson (312-353-6303)  
Barbi Lee (312-886-5296)

**Meeting, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indianapolis, Indiana**

On February 20, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Karen Vendl traveled to Indianapolis to meet with Max Michael and members of his staff from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management emergency response program. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the various ways that States can obtain funds from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. This fund was established by the

Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to cover, among other things, the costs of removal actions resulting from the discharge of oil into the navigable waters of the United States.

Contact: Karen Vendl (312-886-7194)

**Emergency Response Plan Writing Workshops, Columbus and Danville, Indiana**

On March 6-7, 2001, Cheryl McIntyre, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), conducted Emergency Response Plan Writing Workshops in Columbus and Danville, Indiana.

Emergency Response Plans are intended to improve community preparedness for handling chemical accidents and promote cooperation among Federal, State, and local agencies if such accidents should occur. The full day workshops included both lecture-type instruction and exercise problems on how to write emergency response plans that are consistent with the planning requirements outlined in the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) as well as techniques on how to assess risk and capabilities within a community.

Contact: Cheryl McIntyre (312-886-1964)

**FIELDS and SADA Conference, Denver, Colorado**

On March 6-8, 2001, FIELDS Team members John Bing-Canar, Brian Cooper, Tim Drexler, and Chuck Roth convened the 2nd Annual FIELDS Conference in Denver. The conference was intended to provide training in the FIELDS and SADA decision support software and also provide information on available environmental databases including EQUIS and STORET. The conference was sponsored by U.S. EPA Region 8 in their Regional offices. Introductions were given by Jack W. McGraw, Acting Regional Administrator, and Max H. Dodson, the Assistant Regional Administrator for Ecosystems Protection and Remediation. Mr. Dodson's Division handles the Region's Superfund program. After a half day of introduction to the decision support software and databases, the 120 conference attendees were divided into groups that received 12 hours of FIELDS and SADA computer instruction in three computer rooms. In addition, all groups had the opportunity to view demonstrations of 3 contaminated sites utilizing the FIELDS and SADA tools and demonstrations of major databases. The three example contamination sites are located in Regions 3, 5, and 7.

Conference proceedings will be available on the FIELDS website at [www.epa.gov/r5water/fields](http://www.epa.gov/r5water/fields).

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